

NON-TECHNICAL ABSTRACT

The development of a safe and effective prophylactic HIV-1 vaccine is a global health priority. Studies in animals have demonstrated that one candidate vaccine strategy involves plasmid DNA vaccines encoding HIV-1 proteins with another plasmid encoding an immune molecule linked to a portion of an antibody molecule (called IL-2/Ig). The purpose of the IL-2/Ig is to increase the body's immune response to the vaccine. We now plan to test this approach in humans. We plan to administer plasmid DNA vaccines either with or without the plasmid encoding IL-2/Ig. The primary goal of the study is to see if this vaccine is safe and well-tolerated. The secondary goal of the study is to see if this vaccine raises immune responses.